

REMARKS

Status of Application

Claims 1-6 are the claims that have been examined in the present application. Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Shoji (U.S. Patent No. 6,433,341). Claims 2, 4, 5, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shoji (U.S. Patent No. 6,433,341) in view of Tamakoshi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,806,487).

By this Amendment, Applicant is amending claim 1 and canceling claim 3. The Amendment incorporates the elements from claim 3 into claim 1, and therefore do not raise new issues of patentability and further searching.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Shoji (U.S. Patent No. 6,433,341).

With regard to claim 1, the Examiner has repeated the same argument in the present Office Action as was presented in the Office Action dated October 12, 2005. Therefore, Applicant has restricted the following comments to the Examiner's Response to Submissions on page 4 of the present Office Action.

Amended claim 1 recites "wherein the order data comprises data regarding the subject or a portion of the subject to be imaged", which has been incorporated from claim 3. The Examiner asserts that FIG. 3, column 5, lines 9-11, column 7, lines 37-49 and column 8, lines 17-33 disclose that the connection terminal 46 of Shoji receives order data from an external device.

Specifically, the Examiner is arguing that the counter value in Shoji discloses the order data recited in claim 1.

With regard to claim 3, the Examiner argues, as seen on page 2 of the present Office Action, that “the order data C in the cassette of Shoji is data of the recited type,” citing column 3, lines 49-60. The cited passage refers to a photographing menu, which lists the various conditions associated with taking a radiation image photograph. However, this information is not sent to the radiation detecting cassette. Only the counter value, “C”, which is used to identify the radiation image photograph saved by the cassette, is sent to the cassette to be associated with the image data of the radiation image photograph. See column 3, lines 44-48 and 61-64. Therefore, amended claim 1 is patentable over the applied art, as Shoji fails to teach that the order data comprises data regarding the subject or a portion of the subject to be imaged as recited in amended claim 1.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 4, 5, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shoji (U.S. Patent No. 6,433,341) in view of Tamakoshi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,806,487).

Claims 2, and 4-6 are dependent from amended claim 1. Therefore, because Shoji fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of amended claim 1, and because Tamakoshi fails to cure the defects noted in amended claim 1, claims 2 and 4-6 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

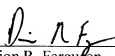
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER



Dion R. Ferguson
Registration No. 59,561

Date: November 14, 2006